Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (original): A method for allocating physical storage, comprising:

creating a virtual volume, the virtual volume comprising a virtual volume region storing a pointer to a zero logical disk, wherein the zero logical disk is not mapped to any physical storage;

receiving from a host a write request to the virtual volume;

mapping the write request to the virtual volume region;

mapping the virtual volume region to the zero logical disk;

in response to said mapping the virtual volume region to the zero logical disk, assigning a logical disk region to the virtual volume region, wherein the logical disk region is assigned to physical storage; and

writing to the logical disk region.

Claim 2 (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising, prior to said writing to the logical disk region:

caching the write request; and

sending a pass status to the host indicating the write request has been completed.

Claim 3 (original): The method of claim 2, wherein the virtual volume is located at a node in a system, the method further comprising:

replicating the write request to another node in the system.

Claim 4 (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising, after said writing to the logical disk region:

sending a pass status to the host indicating the write request has been completed.

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Claim 5 (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising, prior to said assigning a logic disk region to the virtual volume region:

 determining if the virtual volume is greater than a size limit; and

 issuing an alert if the virtual volume is greater than the size limit.

Claim 6 (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising, prior to said assigning a logic disk region to the virtual volume region:

 determining if there is at least one logical disk region available to assign;

 if there is not at least one logical disk region available to assign, determining if a pool of logical disks for providing logical disk regions is greater than a size limit; and

 issuing an alert if the pool is greater than the size limit.

Claim 7 (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising, prior to said assigning a logic disk region to the virtual volume region:

 creating a logic disk comprising the logical disk region.

Claim 8 (original): The method of claim 7, further comprising, prior to said creating a logic disk:

 queuing the write request and the another write request to the virtual volume region until said assigning a logical disk region to the virtual volume region.

Claim 9 (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising, subsequent to said assigning a logic disk region to the virtual volume region:

 determining if the virtual volume is greater than a size limit; and

 issuing an alert that the virtual volume is greater than the physical size limit.

Claims 10 to 12 (canceled).

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